GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3286
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
DIVIDEND BY OIL COMPANIES
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

te:

(a) whether the Union government have divested oil companies to pay dividend to meet revenue shortfall;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether oil companies have enough funds, after payment of interim dividend to meet emergent situations, especially oil imports; and

(d) if not, the manner in which it is proposed to meet the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): In view of the expected higher accrual of profits during financial year 2002-03, the oil PSUs under the control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had decided to pay interim dividend in consultation with the Ministry.

(c) & (d): Since the interim dividend has been paid out of higher profits earned by the Oil PSUs during 2002-03, it is not likely to affect their normal schedule of activities.